



June 14, 2011

Federal Communications Commission
Marlene Dortch, Secretary
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

WT 11-65: In the Matter of applications of AT&T Inc. and Deutsche Telekom AG for consent to assign or Transfer Control of licenses and Authorizations

Dear Chairman Genachowski and Commissioners:

As the voice of manufacturers in Illinois, we at the Illinois Manufacturers Association like to think we know what the people of Illinois want and need. It is because of the people's interest that I am writing you this letter.

As you know, there is a proposed merger between AT&T and T-Mobile USA. We believe this merger is a good thing because it provides what we strive for here at IMA, the best for the people. When the merger is completed, more than 97% of America will have access to a widespread, high-speed LTE network. With the addition billions of dollars that AT&T is going to invest to strengthen its infrastructure and improve its network, it is obvious that this merger is truly in the people's best interest.

With this expanded network, I have no doubt that the small businesses of Illinois will flourish. Small businesses account for a majority of all new jobs, and these new jobs need broadband access in today's fast paced, wireless society in order to succeed. Wireless broadband enables affordable access to training for employees, improved access to business partners and faster outreach to potential and actual consumers. It is a great and necessary tool that is vital to the survival of small businesses and growth of new job opportunities.

When you make your final decision regarding this merger, I only ask that you take time to think about the importance of new job opportunities for this country, and how an expanded wireless broadband network will greatly supply such opportunities.

Thank you,

Gregory W. Baise
President and Chief Executive Officer
Illinois Manufacturers Association

CC:

Chairman Julius Genachowski
Commissioner Mignon Clyburn
Commissioner Michael Copps
Commissioner Robert McDowell